The University of Iowa community celebrates graduates in the LGBTQA community.

By EFE AYANRUOH | efeoghene-ayanruoh@uiowa.edu

Beginning with the first day of session on Jan. 12, Mommsen said he was more than convinced he would be appointed to serve solely on an agriculture committee, given his agribusiness background. Instead, much of his first-year tenure has focused on K-12 funding and higher education. Among his sponsored legislation included several bills on the possession of firearms, including one relating to the possession of firearms, ammunition, pistol, and one requiring honey packaged in the state to be labeled if sold or offered to consumers.

The Iowa City School Board proposed a change in the school day for the 2015-16 school year, suggesting classes start around 8:30 a.m. The proposal suggests elementary schools start at 8:30 a.m., with the junior highs and high schools starting at 7:45 a.m. Elementary school time would shift to 30 minutes earlier, so students would spend half an hour longer in school, while other students would spend the amount of time.

Though this would allow students to have an early release on Thursdays, almost everyone at the meeting was against the new hours despite the

ON THE WEB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015
THE INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY SINCE 1868
DAILYIOWAN.COM 50C

UI touts Rainbow grads

By BILL COONEY
bill-cooney@uiowa.edu

The facility contains county vehicles, two repair shops, a sign truck, a workshop for road-surface materials to make sure they stand up to the elements once they are put down, Kennedy said. "The lab will be used to test various road-surface materials to make sure they stand up to the elements once they are put down," Kennedy said.

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Students choose majors for a variety of reasons, including personal interest, financial considerations, and career aspirations. Some students may choose majors that are popular, while others may choose more niche fields. The disparity in job prospects and earnings among different majors is an important consideration for students as they make their choices.

Earnings by bachelor’s degree

Major differences in grad salaries

Major differences in grad salaries

BY CARLY MATTHEW

"Everybody is already at full speed when you get here, but you need to get going as fast as you can," Mommon said about his new role in the Capitol.

In other matters, following House floor debates on Thursday, the Senate voted to increase the state's minimum wage to $9 an hour, a bill sponsored by Sen. Kevin Henningsen, R-Ordinaries.

The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 37-1, with Sen. Marc Thomas, R-Keokuk, being the only senator to vote against it. The bill now goes to Gov. Kim Reynolds for her signature.

Sen. Kevin Kenney, R-Dubuque, said he supports the increase in the minimum wage because it will help low-wage workers and their families.

"I believe this is an important step in addressing the issue of minimum wage," Kenney said. "It's something that's long overdue, and I'm glad we were able to make it happen here in the Senate."
Elsie Gauley Vega, an LGBTQA student, said her experience at the university and the city was very positive. “I never felt like I was wrong,” she said. “I never felt like I was not part of the community.” Vega is a 2015 Rainbow graduate, and she will graduate this year. “It’s really great working for them, because you get to see the students’ interests and the energy they bring to the campus,” she said.

Alden agreed with Schludter. “It’s basically a one-stop shop,” he said. “If it’s dark, and there is a problem, it’s a one-call fix.”

Parent Martin Schludter, of Christian Athletes, said the facility contains two built-in equipment repair facilities. “We have to get up early and it’s hard for me to focus,” he said. “I figured out my future, and it’s hard for me to find anything out of it.”

The facility’s two repair facilities contain all the materials needed to fix anything that could go wrong with any of the vehicles used by the student-athletes. “It’s basically a one-call fix. “If it’s dark, and there is a problem, it’s a one-call fix,” he said.

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O n Tuesday, President Obama held a panel at the University of Iowa. In this point in time, Obama has typically been the spokespeople of the middle class. His message gazed heavily on emphasizing the growth of the middle class. Recently, however, the middle class has become more often and in a frank manner about the poor. Poverty and race have always been the trend in the 2015 United States. For example, the white child poverty rate stood at 10.7 percent in 2014 according to the National Center for Children, while African-American children at 38.3 percent and Latino children at 30.5 percent.

It is then, that Obama, has shifted his approach over to the middle class. The President has concentrated on the importance of the middle class for a country that is looking for a way to maintain economic growth and prosperity. In Georgetown, Obama called for all rules of the competition to reach growth in the United States. “America’s poverty, an issue statured for decades. He made special note of his belief that conser- vative care about the poor, but they fail to act on the poverty in the proper way. In the framework of the debate, after he has made clear that he is not a conservative, he has made clear that he is not a liberal. He is a centrist. His policies are designed to address the root causes of poverty and to do so in a way that is consistent with his belief in the power of the American people. Obama’s approach is to empower the middle class by providing them with the tools they need to succeed and by providing them with the support they need to overcome the challenges they face. This means that the government will invest in education, infrastructure, and workforce development, and it will also work to reduce the burden of debt on middle-class families and to expand access to affordable health care.Obama will also work to increase the minimum wage and to make sure that working families have access to paid sick leave and family leave. He will also work to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care.Obama’s vision is one of a country that is strong and prosperous, where everyone has a fair shot at success and where the middle class is the backbone of our economy. America is a country of opportunity, and it is in our power to make sure that opportunity is real and attainable for all Americans.”
One of the most amazing aspects of Blank as an athlete is her ability to make unmatched adjustments to new styles of play — something that eventually came to define her career at Iowa.

But in that time, it was a transition between similar but very different games. She realized that the move from short to first base was different with a bigger ball. It didn’t take her long to adjust.

“I remember at the outset, I think I had thrown a softball once before, and I couldn’t even throw the force to third,” Blank said. “It would sail right every single time. It was weird for the first few days.”

So began, and in many ways continued, her drive into mastering her greatest strength — fielding. Watch her today, and you’ll see her make a variety of difficult plays look routine.

Her reflexes allow her to react to a hit ball with ease. Her ability to throw to bases allows her to square up in the field with the calmness of a millisecond. She needs to excel on the field on her left, as fans began to demand of other players on Iowa’s team as well.

A lot of these girls were small, and she did not play on the most elite of travel teams in the Midwest. She was the shortest player on each of her teams.

In 2012, Megan Blank was just starting to go through her growth spurt.

“Jim Blank, on a visit to his hometown Iowa City, wanted to make sure that you could come to watch him play,” his daughter said.

They did in the summer after her sophomore year and were sold.

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In 2012, Megan Blank began her career as a Hawkeye.

Her freshman season was an exhibit of this kind of player college programs overlooked in the recruiting process, 2-spot, enjoying the luxury of hitting in front of two other great hitters, Katie Keim and Liz Watkins.

“I think I even surprised myself freshman year I could pull the ball through the hole, I considered it a success,” she recalled. “I rarely put an RBI on the board. Her game was driven by the confidence of her personality. She leads by example, letting her play speak for itself.

And in and around the course of the off-season added muscle and changed the technique of her swing — the results were nothing short of staggering.

“She’s a girl putting up big numbers every game slapping,” junior Erin Erickson said. “It seems like a flawless transition; it blows my mind that [travel ball] coaches had her slapping before.”

The lifting slapper boosted, 457, nearly 50 points higher than in her freshman campaign. She added 13 home runs, 54 RBIs, and a slugging percentage of .706.

Blank said she hadn’t even let a home run come close to Iowa, home of her old sponsor. “I think you have to be humble about it. By the end of the year, she was 27-3, the program’s record in that spot she can’t just about get to, but not quite everything.

At the beginning of the 2013 season, the team’s lone senior and four-year conference selection, was not playing on the team.

“I know I’m not the most vocal leader,” Blank said. “I kind of ask that upon myself this year to kind of come out of my comfort zone and become more of a vocal leader.”

She leads by example, letting her play speak for itself. Her play in the field, she said, has been overlooked a little because the team has struggled in recent years. She said, “I don’t say it’s a failure on the team’s part.”

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The Chicago Bandits have, however, since invited Blank to a tryout. And general manager Aaron Moore expressed optimism about Blank’s chances of making the team.

“Think she’s been overlooked a little because the team has struggled in recent years,” he said. “But she can do a little bit of everything, and defensively, I think she can come in and contribute right away.”

“I don’t think I’ll always try to play with a bit of a chip on my shoulder, because I think that helps me perform better,” Blank said. “If you can play with a bit of an edge, I think that gives you a little advantage over others.”

She’ll do it the same way she always has — cool, calm, and composed — and with a chip on her shoulder. In the youth leagues of southern California. No. 1 in program history
Today's events

- **Finals@IMU**: Carols and Coffees Breakfast, 6 a.m., IMU first floor
- **Finals@IMU**: Donuts, 7-9 a.m., IMU second floor
- **Finals@IMU**: Popcorn, 10 a.m., 179 IMU
- **Finals@IMU**: Fitness Starts, 9 a.m., 179 IMU
- **Finals@IMU**: Staff Council Meeting, 11 a.m., 2520D University Center Recital Hall
- **Finals@IMU**: Final Exams: OMEGA skill test, 2 p.m., Center Recital Hall
- **Finals@IMU**: Coffee, 11 a.m., IMU first floor
- **Finals@IMU**: Snacks, 10 p.m., IMU Hub
- **Finals@IMU**: Yoga, 11 a.m. & 9 p.m., 179 IMU
- **Finals@IMU**: Snacks, 10 p.m., IMU Hub
- **Finals@IMU**: Healthy Snacks, 2 p.m., IMU
- **Finals@IMU**: Massages, 8-11:59 p.m., IMU first floor
- **Finals@IMU**: Donations, 2:30 p.m., 2520D University Center Recital Hall
- **Finals@IMU**: Snacks, 10 p.m., IMU Hub
- **Finals@IMU**: Carbs and Caffeine Breakfast, 6:30 a.m., IMU first floor
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*SUBMIT AN EVENT*
Visit to see your special event appear here! Simply submit the details at dailyiowan.com/pages/calendarsubmit.html.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): You will make an interesting business contact if you network. Don’t make personal changes impulsively or you will have regrets. Focus on expanding your skills, knowledge, and expertise, not on changing your appearance. Observe what others are doing. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secrecy must not be shared. If you divulge something about someone else, it will make you look bad. Taking on too much work will be your downfall. Focus on what you can accomplish. Realistic expectations will help you succeed.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): You face opposition and an uncertain outcome. Trust your instincts and be cautious. Sharing information is very different from you. Socialize with people who are of the same mindset, and you will avoid wasting time that should be spent on developing plans and profitable ideas.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Don’t let anyone stop you from following your creative direction. Work alone, and don’t worry about what others do or say. A last-minute change can be your advantage if you don’t make a fuss. Acceptance will make your life easier.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your energy to good use. Make your voice heard and your intentions clear. Events will turn in your favor, and you will find the right opportunities at the right time. Stay up to date, and share your ideas.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect the unexpected. Patience will lead you to a better situation. Look for the positive in any situation you face, and you will find a way to manoeuvre your way to success. Say little, and do a lot. Romance will improve your personal life.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make up your mind to participate. Being indecisive will not help you get ahead. Step up your game, and share your ideas. Libras must understand that some situations may require compromise, and you should have your own ideas.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go with the flow. Don’t be daunted by what others do. You don’t have to keep up with anyone. Focus your heart and enjoy the company of someone you love. Do your own thing, and you will find the happiness you are searching for.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don’t be mesmerized by someone who is very different from you. Socialize with people who are of the same mind, and you will avoid wasting time that should be spent on developing plans and profitable ideas.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Observation will be necessary, and impatience will lead to sour conclusions. Try not to reveal your motives until you have secured your position. A partnership with someone unique will turn out to be a prosperous and winning combination.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your energy to good use. Make personal changes at home and don’t be afraid to reach out to someone you love to help you maintain your relationship. Work as a team player will result in a healthy atmosphere at home and at the office.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen carefully before you give in to someone trying to push or pressure you. Don’t be tempted to spend time on a gimmick that promises the impossible. Stick close to home and to people you trust. Romance is highlighted.
discussions to the forefront. The summit will be held Saturday at Point of Grace Church, 500 N. Davenport Street, in Waukee, Iowa. GOP presidential-nomination contender Sen. Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal will attend. The main topic to be discussed at the event is the recent U.S. and the global jihad movement, border insecurity and illegal immigration, the hollowing out of the U.S. military, and America’s electrical power grid and threats to critical infrastructure. The Family Leader’s Presidential Lecture Series By the end of September, presidential-nomination candidates will have had the opportunity to visit four regions in Iowa. The Family Leader’s Presidential Lecture Series will continue May 18 at Cedar Falls High School, the second in the series. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Santorum will attend. The third lecture will be held June 15 at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for that event. In April, the first of the lecture series kicked off, which was held at Ridgewood High School in Mason City. Iowa Straw Poll For GOP nominees, Iowa’s Straw Poll is the benchmark before the caucuses roll around in February 2016. This summer will be Sen. Joni Ernst’s first Roast and Ride, which will be held at the Central Iowa Expo grounds near Boone, Iowa, on June 6. Through this event will feature family activities and entertainment, it will allow Ernst to meet with possible 2016 candidates. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker confirmed in January that he will attend. Since then, six more guests have said they will attend, according to Ernst’s PAC on Tuesday, including MichiganGovernor Rick Snyder, former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, Huckabee, Perry, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. The final Straw Poll results will be released in the coming weeks. Last year, former Sen. Tom Harken was the honoree. Several influential Democrats such as former Iowa Senate Republican Leader, D-Iowa, and O’Malley, who was present for the state Democratic Convention last year, thanked Harken for his time as senator. Iowa’s GOP Lincoln Day Dinner In several days, more than 50 announced and presupposed presidential candidates will head to Des Moines for the Republican Party of Iowa’s annual dinner. The event will be held on Saturday at the Iowa Events Center, 833 Fifth Ave., Des Moines. The event has featured past presidential candidates, such as former vice-presidential nomines and Wisconsin Gov. Paul Ryan. He served as the keynote speaker at last year’s dinner. Iowa National Security Action Summit With topics such as ISIS and the Iran nuclear deal, the Center for Security Pol- icy and High Priority in partnership with the Family Leader will host a forum that will bring them into the fray. The event has featured past presidential candidates, such as former vice-presidential nomines and Wisconsin Gov. Paul Ryan. He served as the keynote speaker at last year’s dinner.
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Iowa
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This
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The
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The senior's journey to one of Iowa softball's all-time greats was unlikely as it was spectacular — except to her.

By CHARLIE GREEN

Megan Blank’s space

It wasn’t long before Jim and Marcia Blank realized their daughter had a passion for softball. “We always laughed, when she was 6, 7 and 8 years old, she was an old wooden garage door,” Jim Blank said. “She would throw the tomato ball against it for hours on end and just sit and play and make up games.

Megan grew up a self-described ‘tomboy’ and as she grew older, she began to play with the softball players when she was old enough to sign up for baseball, she seized the opportunity.

And where others divided practices, she saw it as another opportunity to experience the game she loved. “She never understood why the boys would complain, ‘We have to go to practice,’” Marcia Blank said. “She was like ‘We get to go to practice.’”

She played those youth-league games as the only girl on her teams. “Always smaller than her teammates, but expectations kept her on par with her older brother and the boys,” Jim said.

When JD was in the major-league level of youth baseball, Megan was placed up into the minors. She improved drastically to help the team win. “Grew up whatever I did, I did it because my brother did it, too,” she said.

She got her wish. And as JD hit a home run, she would say, ‘We have to go to practice.’”

It culminated an illustrious career for Iowa softball’s star shortstop. Megan Blank has made the All-Big Ten Team in each of her four seasons at Iowa. In 2015, she became as the program’s all-time leader in doubles. Her career batting average of .410 is the best in Hawkeyes history.

But all the success was far from a forgone conclusion for the Californian when she entered college. From the time she was young, she went about her athletics career pushing herself to the next level.

Megan Blank’s space 4x100 seeks Big Ten success

Iowa Daily Iowan

MD GRADUATE

Iowa Director of Track and Field Josef Woody has used a combination of guys on his 4x100-meter relay team during the outdoor season.

Despite the issues including baton exchanges, changes in the starting position and energy it’s clear his team is now in the best position to compete at the Big Ten Championships in East Lansing, Michigan.

“I’ve always been a fan of Ja’eon Perry,” senior Aaron Mallett, junior Mario Williams and senior Keith Brown will try to continue the quality-three-consecutive years Blank: our star takes the day

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